

MINUTES

FOR THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MAY 23, 2001

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
202 C STREET 12TH FLOOR
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

ITEM-1: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pesqueira called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ITEM-2: ROLL CALL

Staa Heshimu called the roll:

(C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
(VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-present
(M) Mateo R. Camarillo-present
(M) Charles W. Johnson-present
(M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
(M) Shirley ODell-present
(M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A012-016.)

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:

(C) Chairman Ralph R. Pesqueira-present
(VC) Vice Chairman Leland T. Saito-present
(M) Mateo R. Camarillo-present
(M) Charles W. Johnson-present
(M) Marichu G. Magaña-present
(M) Shirley ODell-present
(M) Juan Antonio Ulloa-present

ALSO PRESENT:

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster
Staajabu Heshimu, Operations Director
Joey Perry, Senior Planner

ITEM-3: NON-AGENDA COMMENTS

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Comments are limited to no more than two minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Commission's Operations Director prior to 4:00 p.m. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on an issue brought forth under "Non-Agenda Comment."

Comment by Ted Bunce:

That he was one of the applicants for the Redistricting Commission so he has an interest in it and in his current district. He believes that he is in the wrong district. He was unable to attend District Three's meeting, but he was able to watch it on tape. He appreciates the work done by Kevin Davis and would like to associate himself with that. He agrees with the remarks made by Toni Atkins and others that spoke at the District Three meeting. One of his main points when he was an applicant for the Redistricting Commission is that he believes that the neighborhoods should be kept intact. He stated that currently the district he lives in is split. He stated that he is specifically speaking about University Heights and some parts of Hillcrest. He lives near the UCSD Hospital which is considered Mission Hills and that area is in District 2 and he believes that area should be in District 3. He believes District 3 should be expanded to the west to include areas to I-5 and I-8 because these are natural dividing lines. He believes the area in City Heights with many ethnic residents should be removed from District 3 to create a district that would be more ethnically diverse. There is not enough ethnicity represented on the Council.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A017-064.

Comment by Kevin Davis:

Mr. Davis offered some technical comments regarding the notes on the back of the current City Council map. Note No. 6 says Census tract 80.01 is divided by the boundaries of the Pacific Beach and La Jolla Community Planning areas and Note No. 5 says a similar thing about two other census tracts and if you look at a block map (he showed a current block map of Census Tract 80.01), if you look at the block map, and you superimpose the planning maps over it, you'll notice that not only is the tract split but individual blocks are split and it makes it very difficult from a technical stand point to figure out the population of those districts. So since the mandate of this commission calls for adhering to census units as much as practical and since census units are bounded by natural boundaries which is another goal of this commission, he would recommend as much as possible the boundaries be adjusted slightly between district 1 and district 2 and district 6 to adhere more closely to the census tract boundaries. He doesn't live in those neighborhoods but would recommend that the commission speak to people in those neighborhoods or people that are knowledgeable about those neighborhoods and see if there would be any adverse affect of moving the boundaries to adhere more closely to the census tract boundaries. If you notice the boundary for this census tract is just two or three blocks north of the council boundary so moving it two or three blocks north he wouldn't imagine would have any negative effects but he doesn't know because he doesn't live there.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A070-094)

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES:

Meeting of March 28, 2001
Meeting of April 4, 2001
Meeting of April 18, 2001
Meeting of April 23, 2001

Leland Saito requested that the approval of the minutes be postponed. He just arrived back in town and has not had the opportunity to review the minutes.

Shirley ODell stated that she had not had an opportunity to review all the minutes.

Chairman Pesqueira stated that the minutes would be carried over to the next meeting

which will be next Wednesday.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A096-112)

ITEM 5: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff will provide updates on the status of operational issues including progress ordering/receiving the redistricting software, status of the work program and time line, receipt and process of additional census data, hiring of executive secretary and purchase of supplies/equipment.

Ms. Heshimu provided the Commission of the following information:

Carmen George has been selected as the executive secretary.

Currently the Commission can count down nine items on the time line. Staff is working on presenting population data by district and Joey is prepared to make a presentation on that under Agenda Item 6.

The consultant contract with Cain and McDonald is expect to be finished within the next few days by Friday, but it will need to go through approval.

The redistricting software is installed on two computers, hers and Joey's.

Mr. Ulloa asked when the Commissioners would have an opportunity to look at the software.

Mr. Pesqueira replied that as soon as Joey lets the Commission know what her level of competency is then we can set up appointments and have her show us how it works.

Ms. Heshimu stated that they are trying to find a way to load the software on a laptop and have a demonstration in Chambers.

Chairman Pesqueira suggested beginning the next meeting in Chambers and moving the meeting to staff's office if the presentation cannot be made in Chambers to allow the Commissioners to view and work on the software. By the next agenda staff will know whether the presentation can be made in Chambers.

Staa stated that staff will need direction on what voting pattern information and election data from the Registrar of Voters the Commission wants, whether they want a recommendation from the consultant or if the Commission already knows what they want staff to do.

Mr. Ulloa requested a list of top 50 factors that should be considered.

Ms. Magana requested Asian voting patterns and information.

Ms. ODell expressed interest in 1990 data that could be overlaid and used so as not to repeat errors from 1990.

Mr. Johnson requested information on African American voting patterns.

Mr. Camarillo commented that some estimates and data may be available from SANDAG although current data has not been released by the Census Bureau. Mr. Camarillo expressed an interest in information alluded to by Levin Sy in an e-mail which was sent to Mr. Saito regarding variables such as the 2001 registered voters by political party, length of registration, gender, surname, Asian and Hispanic counts, housing values, business counts, median household income, election results. That would have to be compiled from different sources, but it would be useful if that data is available to manipulate with census files.

Mr. Pesqueira commented that the consultants would probably have that readily available.

Ms. Perry commented that because we have split census blocks any of the data that is received manually has to be disaggregated to those census blocks which is very time consuming and challenging .

Mr. Pesqueira stated that they would like to start with generalities and where we see a problem developing concentrate on that particular split district.

Mr. Ulloa asked when the consultants would be on board. Perhaps the consultant can take on the task.

Ms. Magana would like to concentrate on the entire census tract and then worry about whether or not it was split sometime later.

Mr. Pesqueira stated that we have the most current census tracts now and we need to see where the census tracts are now and what the density is of them.

Mr. Camarillo would like to see a more accurate count of Hispanics in the City of San Diego. He stated that it is doable and that exercise was accomplished by SANDAG for the county very easily in less than half a day.

Mr. Pesqueira stated that we can get that same service from SANDAG.

Mr. Saito stated that we should get political data from the consultant because for San Diego we only have guesses on how people vote because we don't have exit polls.

Mr. Pesqueira stated that we voted to use the consultant group and that staff should start working with them as quickly as possible and get together with SANDAG to get the information and get them to explain it.

Joey Perry's half time status was discussed and Ms. Heshimu stated that staff is working on getting Mr. Perry 100% of the time and negotiating with the City Manager and Planning Department. The status of the MOU with the City Manager was discussed.

Mr. Pesqueira requested that the Commissioners work with staff to move the time line along steadily and submit the preliminary map and then submit the final map.

Ms Heshimu stated that Commission staff was invited by the Community Planning Council to make a presentation to their group which Ms. Perry handled.

Joey Perry reported on the presentation to the Community Planning Council.

The Voting Rights Act and voting age population was discussed.

Ms. Heshimu stated that many of the challenges that staff has faced have to do with not having the proper office equipment to meet the office needs such as a fax machine and copy machine. Therefore, staff has bought a new fax machine and plans to lease a new copy machine.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location A113-B204.)

ITEM 6 PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW UP

Discussion and possible action related to comments received at the recently concluded public hearings, identification of additional communities the Commission would like to hear from, and additional information needed to move forward. Direction to staff relating to drafting map options for Commission review.

Ms. Perry provided handouts and talked about the population data by district, what is involved, and asked for decisions on issues to guide staff into the next phase which will be drawing the map. Should we use the data from the first half of the table which identifies everybody by race; all of those racial categories total 100% of the population and in addition to that data also provide information on the Hispanic population. The other option is the second table which identifies Hispanic origin by race. Ms. Perry suggested going with the second table.

Mr. Pesqueira stressed the importance of making all charts that are used available to the public.

Both charts we discussed by the Commission. There was a consensus by the Commission that they supported using Table 2.

Ms. Heshimu pointed out the downside of Table 2.

Ms. Heshimu stated that staff will take it as direction from the Commission to use Table 2 in order to get started.

Mr. Pesqueira stated that the Commission is willing to meet any time staff deems it necessary in order to facilitate moving the time line along as long as it meets public noticing criteria.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION

(Tape location B206-C050.)

ITEM 7 POST-MAP PUBLIC HEARINGS

Discussion on what was learned from the pre-map public hearings to improve the post-map hearings, decision on the number of hearings and areas of the city these will be held. Set tentative schedule beginning July 9 based on Commissioners availability.

The Commission discussed additional community meetings due to the low turn out in some communities.

The Commission discussed their concerns with the low turn-out in some districts and under representation of some groups at the community meetings. Suggestions were made regarding what can be done to reach out to those under-represented groups.

Mr. Pesqueira gave staff direction to investigate the low community turn out in some districts to avoid any inequities and make an aggressive effort to get input from all communities and ethnic groups

Ms Heshimu requested direction from the Commission on the number of meetings and where they will be held, what areas of the city, in order to set dates and avoid the last-minute rush.

Mr. Pesqueira asked the Commission if there was any objection to eight more meetings. Hearing no objection, it was decided that there would be eight community meetings, two meetings per week, and it was requested that the meetings be held in different locations from the first group of public meetings.

Ms. Heshimu informed the Commission that in order to meet the time line the meetings would have to start on July 9th and end on August 1st , which means adopting the preliminary plan before July 9.

Mr. Saito suggested having more than two meetings per week in order to get them done.

It was agreed that the Commission would have four meetings per week.

Mr. Pesqueira suggested having an all-day meeting at a crucial point in time on the drawing of the preliminary map. Direction was given to staff to arrange the meeting.

Ms. Heshimu requested direction on drawing the maps whether the maps should be drawn based on what was heard at the public hearings, or would the Commission want more specific exercises such as moving communities around.

Direction was given by Mr. Pesqueira to break the city down into eight districts with all the new information on them. It will show the Commission what the computer can do by moving the lines around.

The Commission discussed moving the district lines and making changes according to the data provided.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location C053-D300.)

ITEM 8 REFERENDUM PROCESS

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster discussed the referendum process to assist Commissioners in understanding how the Final Redistricting Plan adopted by the Commission could be challenged.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location D303-473.)

**ITEM 9 REPORTS ON CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS ATTENDED BY STAFF
IN APRIL AND MAY**

Staff's report included Mapitude for Redistricting training attended by Joey Perry on May 15 and 16; Making Our Communities Count: United for a Fair Redistricting Process attended by Staa Heshimu on May 12, and Latino Summit on Fair Representation attended by both Ms. Heshimu and Ms. Perry on April 21.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location D478-520.)

ITEM 10 COMMISSION CALENDAR

May 30, 2001 - Council Committee Room (Chambers not available)
June 6, 2001 - Council Chambers
June 13, 2001 - Council Chambers
June 20, 2001 - Neither Council Chambers nor Committee Room is available
June 27, 2001 - Council Chambers
July 4, 2001 - Holiday

Staff informed the Commission that for the meeting of June 20th on the Commission calendar neither the Council Chambers nor the Committee room is available. Staff will check availability of other locations and report at the next meeting.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location D522-560.)

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pesqueira adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ACTION (Tape location: D561-562.)

Ralph Pesqueira, Chairman
2000 Redistricting Commission

Esther Ramos
Legislative Recorder